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Examiner: Theresa T. Snider

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the title as follows:

SMALL AREA DEEP CLEANER ~~DEEP CLEANER WITH ALIGNED ELECTRICAL~~
CORD AND CORD WRAPS

Please amend the following paragraphs as shown below:

[0001] This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/064,604, filed September 12, 2002, now U.S. Patent No. 6,658,692, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent application Serial No. 09/755,724, filed January 5, 2001, now U.S. Patent No. 6,467,122, which claims the benefit of provisional patent application Serial No. 60/176,380, filed January 14, 2000.

Please delete paragraph [0005] in its entirety.

Please amend paragraph [0006] as follows:

[0006] Further according to the invention, a cord wrap is mounted on the handle assembly for wrapping the cord in a loop, an electrical cord is mounted to the handle adjacent the cord wrap and connected to the vacuum source, and a strain relief collar is mounted on the electrical cord at the handle and aligned with the cord wrap so that the electrical cord is relatively straight and unstressed between the handle and the cord wrap. The strain relief projects from the handle in axial alignment with the cord wrap and is preferably formed of an elastomeric material.

Please delete paragraph [0007] in its entirety.

Please insert new paragraphs [0007.1] and [0007.2] as shown below:

[0007.1] In a preferred embodiment, the cord wrap has upper and lower cord wraps and the strain relief collar is mounted below the lower cord wrap and projects toward at least toward the upper cord wrap, and preferably also toward the lower cord wrap.

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[0007.2] Further according to the invention a portable surface cleaner comprises a base housing adapted for movement along a surface to be cleaned, an upright handle pivotally mounted to the base housing, a suction nozzle associated with the base housing and adapted to draw dirt from the surface to be cleaned, a vacuum source in fluid communication the suction nozzle for drawing air through the suction nozzle, an electrical cord mounted to the handle and connected to the vacuum source; and upper and lower cord wraps in spaced apart, axially aligned relationship on the handle for wrapping an electrical cord in a loop. According to the invention the electrical cord is mounted to the handle at a location in substantial axial alignment with the upper and lower cord wraps and projects from the handle in a direction in substantial axial alignment with at least one of the upper and lower cord wraps so that the electrical cord projects from the handle in a relatively straight line between the handle and the at least one of the upper and lower cord wraps.

Please delete paragraph [0008] in its entirety.

Please insert new paragraph [0008.1] as shown below:

[0008.1] Preferably, a strain relief collar is mounted on the electrical cord at the handle and projects from the handle toward the at least one of the upper and lower cord wraps. The strain relief collar is preferably formed of an elastomeric material. In one embodiment, the electrical cord is mounted below the lower cord wrap and projects toward both the upper and lower cord wraps.

Please amend paragraph [0032] as shown below:

[0032] Upright handle 100 includes an upright handle housing 102 comprising front and rear shells 110, 120, a handgrip 130, an upper handle tube 134, and a liquid supply tank 140. Upper cord wrap 136 generally projects from handgrip 130, and lower cord wrap 112 generally projects from housing 102 in axial alignment with the upper cord wrap 136. As shown in the drawings, the electrical cord projects from the handle housing in a direction in substantial axial

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alignment with the upper and lower cord wraps so that the electrical cord projects from the handle in a relatively straight line between the handle and the upper and lower cord wraps,